

# Welcome to St. Mark's and St. John's

## Third Sunday of Advent

### *Advent Three*

Help yourself to coffee in the "cafe". Feel free to bring it to your pew.

We invite children to make themselves at home at our children's table where there are weekly activity bulletins. Our live YouTube broadcast begins at 9:15am.

As always, the link to our live/recorded YouTube channel is available on our website, [stmarksandstjohns.org](http://stmarksandstjohns.org)

### PRELUDE

Instrumental

### OPENING MUSIC "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

*Please Stand*

*Masked singing encouraged*

*music by Ludwig van Beethoven, lyrics by Henry van Doyle*

1. Joy-ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love.  
2. All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee; Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays.

Hearts un-fold like flow'rs be-fore Thee, Op'n-ing to the sun a - bove.  
Stars and an-gels sing a-round Thee, Cen-ter of un - bro - ken praise.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are provided below the vocal lines.

*Continued...*

Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness; Drive the dark of doubt a-way.  
 Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, Flow-'ry mead-ow, flash-ing sea,

Giv-er of im-mor-tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.  
 Chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain Call us to re-joice in Thee.

OPENING SENTENCE

Celebrant: Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height and look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west to east at the Word of the Holy One.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Celebrant: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.  
 You call nations to walk in your light  
 and to seek your ways of justice and peace  
 for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near.  
 Bless us as we light the third candle of this wreath -  
 the candle of joy.  
 Wake us from our sleep,  
 that we may be ready to greet our Lord when God comes  
 and help us welcome God into our hearts and homes,  
 for Christ is our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

*Deacon:* Let us pray. Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE FIRST LESSON:

*Please be seated*

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!  
The Lord has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.  
The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.  
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.  
The Lord, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing  
as on a day of festival.  
I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.  
*Continued...*

I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.  
And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.  
At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the Lord.

*Zephaniah 3:14-20*

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

### **The First Song of Isaiah**

Surely, it is God who saves me;  
I will trust in him and not be afraid.

**For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,  
and he will be my Savior.**

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing  
from the springs of salvation.

**And on that day you shall say,  
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;**

Make his deeds known among the peoples;  
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

**Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things,  
and this is known in all the world.**

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy,  
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

*Isaiah 12:2-6*

THE SECOND LESSON:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

*Philippians 4:4-7*

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

ADVENT HYMN

“Hark the Glad Sound”

music by Thomas Haweis, lyrics by Phillip Doddridge

1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come

prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es

throne And ev - 'ry voice a song,  
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield,  
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor,  
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

*Luke 3: 7-18*

Deacon: The Gospel of our Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in God above us,**

**Creator of all things, sustainer of all life.**

**We believe in Christ beside us, companion and friend,**

**redeemer of all the broken pieces of our universe.**

**We believe in Spirit deep**

**within us, Advocate and**

**guide, who lives with us eternally.**

**We believe in God's resurrection created world**

**where all things are fixed,**

**and all creation fits together**

**in vibrant harmonies.**

**We believe in God above, beside, within,**

**God yesterday, today and forever, the three in one, the one in three.**

SPECIAL MUSIC FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION

*Please be seated*

*You're invited to light a candle at our prayer table and write your prayer intentions on the Prayer Board during the music. Please stay socially distant.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of many names, God beyond all names; the beginning and the end of every story, the meaning of every life; infinite Mystery both hidden and revealed:

God of mercy

**Hear our prayer**



O compassionate One, hold us in your mercy: heal the sick, mend the broken, protect the vulnerable, shelter the refugee, strengthen the weary, rescue the lost, and give courage to all who struggle. We pray today for.....

God of mercy

**Hear our prayer**

O Morning Star, bright splendor of the light eternal, illuminating all things with your radiance: Come, enlighten all who sit in darkness, and those who dwell in the shadow of violence and death. Grant us your peace, and teach us to live in the dawn of your unfailing promise.

God of mercy

**Hear our prayer**

O Desire of every heart, the answer to every longing: You are the strong force that draws us into the mystery of love divine. Forgive us those things which distract and delay us, and lead us ever deeper into the Way, the Truth and the Life.

God of mercy

**Hear our prayer**

God who has come, God who does come, God who is yet to come: Make us an Advent people, ready and alert to welcome and receive You in the stranger's face, the loving act, the moment of grace, the presence of healing, the birth of possibility, the gift of wonder. Let every heart prepare You a place.

God of mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Closing Collect: Emmanuel, You show us the face of the Divine, and reveal the fullness of our humanity. Come: renew your creation, restore us all in Christ, and enable us to become who we are, your faithful and loving people. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

*Offerings and elements are brought forward to the altar.*

*Eucharistic ministers gather at the altar.*

Celebrant: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*on screen*

The Lord is here.

**God's Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

It is right indeed that we should praise you, God of love, our source and our fulfillment, for you create all things, and in you we live and move and have our being. Your wonder is manifest in land and sea and sky.

As a parent tenderly gathers their children, you embraced a people as your own to rear them in your way of compassionate love. From your own being you sent Jesus among us, incarnate of the Holy Spirit and born of Mary our sister.

Jesus revealed your care for all you have made, and showed us your way of reconciliation. Looking forward to the joy of new life Jesus suffered the pangs of the cross and in rising again became the first-born of the renewed family.

You sent your Holy Spirit and gave birth to us, your church. Your Spirit stays to nurture and to guide us.

Now we join hands around your table, and with all creation we hymn your praise for your unending love, as we sing,

**Holy, holy, holy, holy**  
**Holy Lord God of hosts**  
**Heaven and earth are filled with your glory**  
**Hosanna in the highest**  
**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord, of the lord**  
**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

To you indeed be glory, almighty God, because on the night before he died, your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread; when he had given you thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:

**Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.**

After supper he took the cup; when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them and said:

**This cup is the new covenant in my blood poured out for you;**  
**do this as often as you drink it to remember me.**

And so in this great sacrament we celebrate and proclaim the mystery of our faith.

**Christ has died,**  
**Christ is risen,**  
**Christ will come in glory.**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and our celebration, that we may be fed with the body and blood of your Son and be filled with your life and goodness. Strengthen us to do your work, and to be your body in the world.

Anoint us with your life-giving power that we might recognize your presence in each and every person.

**By Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray (sing),  
**Our Father, which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on, earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation.  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

**We who are many are one body, for we share in this one bread.**

The gifts of God for the people of God take them in remembrance of Christ's life, death, and resurrection and feed on him in your hearts by faith.

### WELCOME TO THE TABLE

*All are welcome to receive communion.*

*Please be seated. Our Eucharistic Ministers will come to you. As they approach, please stand if you are able. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available.*

*If you would like to receive a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms in front of you.*

COMMUNION HYMN

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

music by William J Reynolds

1. Let us break bread to-gether on our knees,  
2. Let us drink the cup to-gether on our knees,  
3. Let us praise God to-gether on our knees,

Let us break bread to-gether on our knees;  
Let us drink the cup to-gether on our knees;  
Let us praise God to-gether on our knees;

When I fall on my knees, With my face to the ris-ing

12

sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

**Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## FINAL BLESSING

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Tend to your spirit and our city.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SMSJ WEEKLY CALENDAR (December 13, 2021 - December 19, 2021)

### **Tuesday**

9am - 9:30am    Food Shelf Prep & Foodlink Delivery  
*(Valeri)*

1pm                Food bagging *(Kowalski and Forszt)*

### **Wednesday**

10:30-12pm    Food Shelf Ministry *(Valeri)*

### **Thursday**

9:30am            Staff Meeting

7:00pm            Bible Study-The Book of Acts  
*Zoom link will be available on the website*

**Friday**        *Pastor Cindy's day off*

## **Advent Word**

In addition to our Advent Sunday Services, we are participating in a daily advent word activity through Forward Movement. Each day of advent is assigned a word for reflection which can be found at [AdventWord.org](http://AdventWord.org), posted in the sanctuary, or received via direct email from Forward Movement. Participants are encouraged to post photos, written responses, crafts, drawings, poems, and Holy Spirit-filled posts to their social media with the tag #AdventWord. Gathering a worldwide community, #AdventWord provides a daily meditation, visual image, and invites your personal reflections via social media to share your own Advent journey.

## **Flower Offerings**

Honor a loved one by making a flower offering for the holiday season. Flower offerings go to purchasing poinsettias for the sanctuary. Flower offering envelopes are available in the sanctuary.

## **Bible Study**

Continuing this Thursday, **December 15th**, Rev' Cindy is leading a weekly Bible Study at 7:00pm and participants will be able to attend online. We are studying the Book of Acts! The Zoom link is posted on the website.

## **2022 Nominations Open**

The following positions are open for nominations from Sunday, November 28th to Sunday, January 2nd:

- 1 Co-Warden, 2-year term
- 1 Vestry, 2-year term
- 2 Vestry, 3-year term
- 1 Delegate to Convention, 3-year term
- 1 Alternate Delegate to Convention, 1-year term

Nomination forms are available on the table near the coffee station. Terri Censak is this year's chair.

### **Prayer Concerns and/or Thanksgivings**

Our newsprint "Prayer" board is back. You are welcome to light a candle and put the name(s) of those you would like us to hold in prayer. First names will be shared during the Prayers of the People. If you would like to include any of these names on our regular prayer list, please email Terri Censak at [scensak@frontiernet.net](mailto:scensak@frontiernet.net).

### **Readers and Eucharistic Ministers**

If you'd like to serve as a Reader and/or a Eucharistic Minister, please let Deacon Mike or Pastor Cindy know. The November and December schedule is attached. If you are unable to serve a particular weekend, please find a replacement and let Pastor Cindy know.



## Worship Leaders for December of 2021 and Early 2022

<b>Date</b>	<b>First Lesson and Psalm</b>	<b>Second Lesson</b>	<b>Prayers of the People</b>	<b>Hold Cup Tray</b>	<b>Give Single Cup</b>	<b>Collect Cups</b>
12/12	Mary E	Stephanie S	Tom F	Terri C	Mary E	Children
12/19	Mary Ellen F	Sharon K	Heather G	LaVonne N	Tom F	Stephanie S
12/24	Walt S	Samantha G	Paula V	Mary Ellen F	Deb S	Heather G
12/26	Bob V	Michele H	Kathy J	Walt S	Samantha G	Paula V
1/2	Joe C	Bob C	Deb S	Michele H	Nancy W	Dorothy B
1/9	LaVonne N	Kathy J	Terri C	Bob C	Dorothy B	Children
1/16	Tom F	Mary E	Stephanie S		Sharon K	Joe C
1/23	Heather G	Mary Ellen F	Sharon K	Mary E	Terri C	April L
1/30	Paula V	Walt S	Samantha G	Stephanie S	LaVonne N	Tom F
2/6	Kathy J	Bob V	Michele H	Heather G	Mary Ellen F	Deb S
2/13	Bob C	Deb S	Joe C	Dorothy B	Kathy J	Bob C
2/20	Bob C	Terri C	LaVonne N	Sharon K	Joe C	